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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: Cambodia: The Military Situation

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Elements of the Cambodian Army's Third Division began deploying near Route 3 on February 17 in preparation for a counterattack along the south bank of the Prek Thnaot River. Fighting near Route 3 and elsewhere along Phnom Penh's southern front yesterday was again limited to sporadic shellings. Northwest of the capital, Communist units have broken under steady government pressure and are withdrawing from an area seven miles from Pochentong airport.

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countryside, government commanders of the northern provincial capital of Kompong Thom now report that 12,000 villagers have elected to return to the government zone following a recent government foray into Communist-controlled territory.

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